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Blind Iranian's career a story of success



Mr Keyvan Dahesch in his Frankfurt office (Photo: Horst Winkler)

"At the age of sixteen I just couldn't stand it any longer. Sympathy and spoilt child status were not what I wanted. What I wanted was to come to terms with myself and my condition," says Keyvan Dahesch.

Dahesch was born and brought up in Iran. He was blind from birth and doubly handicapped by the fact that twenty years ago there was not a single school for the blind in his native country.

So in September 1958, feeling that his intellectual faculties would atrophy unless something was done, Dahesch decided, at the age of sixteen, to leave Teheran and apply for a place at Stuttgart college for the blind.

His parents gave him what assistance and encouragement they could, but Dahesch had to learn German himself, and then Braille. Since when, despite the twofold drawback of blindness and the foreign language, his story has been one of success.

He is currently employed as public relations officer to the Hesse state social security board in Frankfurt, where he writes press releases on war pensions, on compensation for victims of violence and on facilities at old people's homes.

At the office he has a card index file of names and addresses which he personaly keeps up to date with the aid of a special Braille device. He also has a shorthand machine for the blind and an adding machine with a Braille keyboard and panel.

Every morning a female colleague reads him the latest newspaper reports, especially those pertinent to his own work. Dahesch reckons it is absolutely essential to keep abreast of current affairs; in his job as a PRO he must make sure he stays well-informed.

As soon as the decision to issue a press release is taken, Dahesch pores over the relevant legal provisions in his Braille version of the civil code and other tomes.

He than phones around the various departments to glean such extra information as he may need. Finally, he dictates the press release that is sent out to agencies, newspapers, radio and TV.

It is an unusual job for someone who has been blind from birth. The blind mostly work as telephonists, masseurs, brushmakers and basket-weavers.

Keyvan Dahesch is ambitious and a hard worker. He had to be to get where he is. After graduating from the college for the blind he took up an appointment as masseur at Frankfurt University Hospital in April 1960.

He went on to work in a number of hospitals in the vicinity, but did not find the work fully satisfying. So he was delighted when the Trades Union Confederation sponsored him as a mature student at Frankfurt Labour College.

In the winter semester of 1971/72 there was a strike of students at Frankfurt University. Fellow-students tried to dissuade him from sitting his exams, but Dahesch went ahead regardless.

"The other students dismissed me as a right-winger," he says, but Dahesch is both a Social Democrat and a member of ÖTV, the public service and transport workers' union.

He graduated as eleventh in a class of forty and was appointed to a senior civil service grade at the social security board. Since 4 July 1976 he has been a fully-fledged civil servant, having previously become a naturalised German citizen.

"I am blind all right," Dahesch concedes, "but that is my only disability. In all other respects I hold down my job by virtue of qualifications and on the strength of results."

In his spare time he reads novels, preferably those with a vein of social criticism, such as Hans Fallada's *Wer einmal aus dem Blechnapf frisst* and Dickens' *David Copperfield.*

To a certain extent he feels he has much in common with the heroes of both novels, Willi Kufalt and David Copperfield. "Both have consoled and encouraged me," he admits.

Dahesch, now aged 35, is a married man. His wife is a German girl. He finds no lack of things to do in his leisure time. "When people realise that I am no tyro at shorthand they soon ask me to lend a hand," he says.

He is Hon. Sec. at his local branches of the Social Democratic Party, the trade union and the Workers' Welfare Association.

Wolfgang Plischke

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 5 August 1977)

The German Tribune

A WEEKLY REVIEW OF THE GERMAN PRESS

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Comecon seeks closer ties with the EEC

Comecon studiously ignored the European Community for nearly twenty years. Then suddenly, eighteen months ago, the EEC's East bloc counterpart decided to start talking with Common Market officials in Brussels.

It was on 16 February 1976, a day that may fairly be said to have marked a turning point in East-West economic ties.

Until that particular Monday the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, usually known in the West as Comecon, had neither acknowledged the existence of the European Community nor sought to make contact with the Brussels Eurocrats.

All treaty ties between EEC and Comecon countries expired at the end of 1974. Bilateral ties no longer applied; from 1 January 1975 the Nine agreed to pursue joint trade policies towards Comecon.

The Comecon countries were left with no option but to review their previous outlook and come to terms with the European Commission in Brussels.

Gerhard Weiss, vice-chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers and chairman of the Comecon executive committee, sought a convenient opportunity of paving the way to better contacts.

He submitted an official Comecon bid to negotiate comprehensive trade and cooperation terms with the EEC at a time when his opposite number as chairman of the European Community's Council of Ministers was Luxembourg Premier Gaston Thorn, a man who could be regarded as reasonably neutral.

This, then, was the first time in nearly two decades that Comecon officially acknowledged the existence of its Western European counterpart.

Long-term agreements between individual Western European countries and East bloc governments were not, for the most part, affected to any great extent by the transfer to Brussels of responsibility for negotating trade agreements on the Nine's behalf.

One such agreement is the deal between Moscow and Bonn by the terms of which the Soviet Union supplies this country with natural gas in return for pipeline deliveries.

But agreements of this kind are no substitute for the bilateral agreements of a more general kind that expired on 31 December 1974 – even though East European governments might like to feel they do fill the bill.

With the transfer of responsibility to Brussels the European Commission was able to supervise the outcome of cooperation talks between EEC and East European countries and ensure that EEC trade policy regulations are enforced.

Annual quotas of imports from Comecon countries are shared between the Nine in accordance with EEC regulations and announced by the European Commission as sson as the Common Market countries have agreed on the details.

The EEC, it must be added, has retained the most-favoured nation status accorded to East bloc countries.

Closer cooperation between the EEC and Comecon will entail a number of organisational points. Comecon does not, as yet, possess supranational bodies in the sense that the Common Market does, and there are no signs that Comecon intends to establish any such authorities.

Integration within Comecon is aimed mainly at intensifying planning coordination between member-countries and at financing a number of large-scale joint projects, especially in respect of raw materials.

Nearly all East bloc countries are, for instance, engaged in helping to exploit Soviet petroleum and natural gas and supplying pipelines for transport purposes.

Comecon bodies cannot be compared with their Common Market counterparts because, for one, they are not entitled to reach decisions binding on all member-countries.

They are merely authorised to make recommendations which individual countries have not always followed in the past.

The GDR and Bulgaria have invariably adhered strictly to the letter of Comecon resolutions, whereas Rumania, for instance, has only acted on recommendations that Bucharest considers reconcilable with the national interest.

The Comecon countries still have considerable development potential. The Soviet Union, for instance, may be one of the most poorly-developed Comecon countries in GNP terms, but by virtue of its site at accounts for 65 per cent of combined Comecon GNP.

What is more, the Soviet Union accounts for seventy per cent of Comecon's population. So it retains preponderance within Comecon, whereas the Common Market now consists of four larger and five smaller member-countries.

It is also due to say that differences in development level between the individual Common Market countries are much less substantial than is the case within the East bloc trade association.

The Comecon economic set-up represents a further obstacle to the emergence of an East bloc EEC. Each country retains its own price system and there is no effective common denominator of East bloc currencies.

As a result currencies are still not freely convertible within the East bloc. The GDR, Poland and Czechoslovakia have made a modest start by abolishing visa requirements for their respective citizens, but the upshot was an uncontrollable rush from one country to another to buy up less expensive commodities.

In next to no time the authorities were left with no option but to reintroduce compulsory exchange regulations at their respective borders.

In addition to an executive committee Comecon has a number of constituent bodies, but there are no plans as yet to set up supranational institutions, according to Nikolai Faddeyev, Comecon's secretary-general.

There are 22 commissions with responsibilities of one kind or another, such as atomic energy, mechanical engineering and agriculture. Foreign trade and finance are also dealt by with special bodies.

In recent years two Comecon banks have also been established to manage short-term credits, and foreign trade balances within Comecon and to finance joint investments.

Yet despite a large number of theoretical debates practical integration between Comecon member-countries has hardly progressed beyond their respective foreign trade ties.

To this day Comecon does not even possess multilateral foreign trade accounting facilities. Serious consideration has evidently not been given to the provision of a freely convertible rouble for all either. Small wonder; nearly all the preconditions have yet to obtain.

So it is easy to see why the European Community's response to the 16 February 1976 Comecon offer was relatively cool. Little more than a "working relationship" could be considered for the time being, the chairman of the EEC Council of Ministers informed his Comecon opposite number.

Since Comecon lacks supranational institutions in the sense that they already exist in Brussels and elsewhere within the EEC there is no one with whom the EEC officials in Brussels can effectively negotiate on the other side.

For the time being the two organisations must needs make do with exchanging statistics and economic forecasts and discussing matters such as environmental conservation.

The Brussels Eurocrats have handled EEC affairs for two decades and are nothing if not skilled negotiators. They are well capable of adopting a flexible response to Comecon bids for intensification of trade ties and delaying a decision with accomplished ease.

Ernst von Eicke

(Deutsche Zeitung, 26 August 1977)

IN THIS ISSUE

The German Tribune Political Affairs Review is included with this issue



Peter Altmeier dead

Herr Peter Altmeier, the Rhineland-Pfalz Premier from 1947 to 1969, died on 28 August aged 78. He was the man who in 1948 invited the heads of the other German *Länder* to a meeting at Koblenz at which the foundations for the future Federal Republic of Germany were laid. Herr Altmeier, who was born in Saarbrücken on 12 August 1899, was elected to the Koblenz City Council as the youngest Centre Party member in 1929. During the Third Reich, Herr Altmeier, a Catholic, was strongly opposed to the National Socialists. It was only by chance that he managed to avoid being arrested after the attempt on Hitler's life on 20 July 1944. After the war he was in charge of the Montabaur region and later in Mainz he led coalitions, latterly with the FDP, even when he controlled an absolute majority in the state Assembly. The CDU politician was a bitter opponent of France's plan to Europeanise the Saar, as well as a respected spokesman for French-German reconciliation. Herr Altmeier earned universal praise for the work his government did on behalf of the people in the lean years after 1945. He organised the food supply, campaigned against plans to de-industrialise the area, and made sure that the Rhineland-Pfalz forestry areas were not lost in reparations payments. (Photo: Archiv)

■ PEOPLE

Hanns Martin Schleyer, the man who heads two employer groups at the same time

Hanns Martin Schleyer, 62, is president of this country's two main employers' associations: the Federal union of German Industry (BDI) and the Federal Association of German Employers' Associations (BDA).

This is a typical day in his working life: 7.30: his plane takes off from Stuttgart airport; 8.30: arrival in Cologne-Wahn; 9.00: internal BDA meeting in Cologne; 10.00: BDI head of departments meeting; 13.45: newspaper interview for the BDA: 14.30: meeting with American businessmen at the BDI; 19.30: political discussions in Bonn.

Sometimes he even rushes back to Stuttgart in the evenings for a conference or some other meeting held by his "own" company, the Daimler-Benz AG. Herr Schleyer is ironically referred to in the Mercedes head offices as "our board member released for association duties."

Herr Schleyer is the first double president in the history of modern German industrial associations.

In the nineteen fifties, Hermann Reusch, the almost legendary former boss of the Oberhausen Gutehoffnungs-Hütte, once said: "Let us wait until old Gerhard Erdmann has retired (Erdmann was the BDA chief executive) and then we can merge the BDI and the BDA." But this never came about.

Rivalries and attempts to co-ordinate activities alternated; successful agreements in political questions were followed by discord.

It was simply impossible to achieve a stable and harmonious relationship between the two associations who were meant to cover the economic field for industry and the social and political field for the whole economy.

During the Adenauer era, the BDI tended to dominate. Its influence was decisive. The BDA had to conduct wage negotiations — a difficult task which they could only make the best of.

The political and economic climate changed when Adenauer's Chancellorship came to an end. Now it was the BDI's turn to take a back seat.

Under Hans Günter Sohl's presidency they regained lost ground, but did not regain their former ascendancy.

Sohl, an expert in the field of co-operation and mergers, finally brought up the old idea of closer ties between the BDI and the BDA.

A merger of the two associations was, however, out of the question because this would have meant that the non-industrial BDA would have been without a central organisation.

Sohl hit upon a possible solution. Hanns Martin Schleyer, president of the BDA, could become double-president of both associations.

Sohl's coup was successful — both associations agreed eventually. Since the beginning of the year, Schleyer has been president of the BDA and the BDI and in all probability he will continue to hold both offices until 1980. Herr Schleyer will be 65 on 1 May 1980.

"When the time comes, I'm going to resign. Others can carry the burden," says the man from Stuttgart, neatly avoiding committing himself to an answer as to whether the experiment is likely to continue.

His own judgement on the experiment so far: "It is a positive development that the two associations now speak with one voice on economic and social questions."

It is certainly true that there were often enough demarcation difficulties between the two organisations in the past — especially when it came to discussions and negotiations with the unions, who insisted that the employers *should talk not only about wages* but also about prices and investments.

Heinz Oscar Vetter, chairman of the German Federation of Unions (DGB), conceded that, on the whole, the unions were in favour of this arrangement.

However, since the associations have complained to the Federal Constitutional Court about certain sections of the co-determination law, the DGB chairman has changed his tune somewhat.

He now says that the union between the two organisations ought to be looked into more closely.

Herr Vetter is clearly wondering whether this complaint would have reached the Karlsruhe court in time if it had not been for Herr Schleyer's importance as an integrating factor.

This consideration explains Herr Vetter's reservations. From employers' circles we hear that the double presidency enables the employers' associations to act more rapidly and effectively in difficult situation.

The skirmishings on the constitutional complaint are certainly one example of this. Schleyer still stresses that co-ordination between the BDI and the BDA is not yet ideal but nonetheless far better than it was before.

Big businessmen and members of the executive would not wholly agree with Herr Schleyer's judgement here

There is still a lot of room for improvement in the matter of fixing dates, deciding who is to be responsible for what, co-ordinating statements and working out mutual obligations.

And the main problem is that Herr Schleyer simly has to much work to do. He is expected to do two president's jobs at once.

A BDI official said: "We are trying to change this. We are trying to persuade former president Sohl to take over some of the work and we also call upon voice-president Kurt Hansen (Bayer Leverkusen)." Hansen is virtually unknown to the general public as vice-president of the BDI.

The economic and social stance of the united leadership is, however, of far greater importance than the tactical question of the distribution of responsibilities.

Schleyer is well known to the general public for his role in wage negotiations and his activities on the co-determination question.

This was when he was president of the BDA and a leading figure in the employers' associations of the metal industry.

The BDI is concerned mainly with the economy, prices, currency, foreign trade, tax and the state budget. BDI presidents have, in the past, had some very outspoken things to say on these subjects.



Hanns Martin Schleyer (Photo: Sven Simon)

Schleyer has now ventured into this field. His remarks at the BDI annual general meeting in Hamburg this year were very cautious and measured in tone.

One of the BDI vice-presidents remarked that Schleyer would not take long to get into his new job and would soon be making statements about the overall economic situations that were just as forceful and accurate as those of former BDI presidents.

Other businessmen are more sceptical:

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Professor Spiros Simitis to take over as Bonn's new data protection director



Professor Spiros Simitis (Photo: dpa)

The new head of data protection in this country, Prof. Spiros Simitis, does not yet know of his good fortune. Professor Simitis' early departure from data protection in Hesse and Professor of Work and Social Law at the university of Frankfurt.

While his appointment was described as "a certainty" in Bonn, Herr Simitis, a naturalised German, born in Greece, was holidaying in his Hellenic homeland with his wife, a "real" German. He had previously been on holiday in Israel.

Before the professor's appointment as this country's top data protection official can be announced publicly, the Federal Cabinet will have to make an official decision after the summer holidays. It will also have to regulate the problem of Professor Simitis' early departure from his position in Hesse.

The federal data protection service director is completely independent. He is attached to the Ministry of the Interior and has the rank of a ministerial director.

The Federal Data Protection Law was passed in January 1977. According to this law, the data protection director was meant to take up office on 1 July 1977, but there has been some delay.

There has been a data protection law in Hesse since 1970. Apart from Rhineland-Pfalz, Hesse is the only State with a data protection committee in its Landtag (State Assembly) and its administration.

Since 1971 the State has had a data protection director, who is required to present a report on his activities by 31 March every year.

The first data protection director in Hesse was Willi Birkelbach the long-serving SPD MP and one-time secretary of state to former Premier Georg August Zinn.

He was the first data protection director in the world. He was followed by Prof. Simitis in 1975. Prof. Simitis is not a member of any political party.

Those who know the Greek-German professor well describe him as "the most courteous man I know, and also the firmest when it comes to stating his point of view."

Prof. Simitis went to school in Athens and then studied law at the university of Marburg. He then took up professorships, first at the university of Frankfurt.

He is always very open-minded in discussion and ready to listen to suggestions from his fellow workers. One of his students described him as "Far more charming than most Germans." However, the Hessian and now federal data protection director is "as hard as nails when his principles, and justice, are involved."

According to Hessian law, every citizen can appeal to the data protection director if he believes that his rights have been infringed as result of illegal use of computerised information.

Professor Simitis has been relentless in his insistence that the letter of the law be observed. Since assuming office, he has revealed a number of abuses in this field.

A number of official bodies infringed the data secrecy requirements as a result of careless use of computers and data processing.

In the case of private data sinners, the Hessian data protection director has no official powers to prosecute, but he can point out the abuses, and Prof. Simitis has done so several times. There was immediate public protest in each case and the offenders were quick to put a stop to the abuses.

Albert Bechthold

(Kieler Nachrichten, 26 August 1977)

■ FILMS

New documentary about Hitler is dangerously one-sided

Thousands of people in the Federal Republic of Germany are making up for what they missed in their school history lessons by going to the cinema to see a new film about Hitler which came out a few weeks ago. Newspapers, radio and TV, are devoting more and more space and time to the years of the Third Reich. Added to this, a woman from the provinces has recently hit the headlines by smuggling her husband, Herbert Kappler, Hitler's former Gestapo chief in Rome, out of an Italian military hospital back to this country. The ensuing uproar caused a meeting between the Italian and German leaders of state to be called off. Is the past perhaps not quite as "over and done with" as we would wish to believe?

We have a new Hitler film. But this does not mean we have a new picture of Hitler. Ever since the premiere of Joachim C. Fest's and Christian Herrendoerfer's lengthy *"Hitler — A Carreer"* some commentators have been writing such effusive reviews that it is enough to make the public's mouth water.

They say that this is a film the like of which no one has dared to produce since 1945.

Whoever writes this kind of thing obviously cannot have seen Fest's television film of April 1969, or else he has not read his 1,200-page biography of Hitler very attentively.

Or else he has been taken in lock, stock and barrel by the distributor's publicity: "We have produced the standard film work on Hitler," in the words of the Munich producer Werner Rieb.

The film is basically no more than a big screen version of the eight-year-old German television version (which *Die Zeit* described at the time as "one of German television's finest hours.")

It has been decked out with a few recently discovered or acquired colour films (including Eva Braun's Obersalzberg idyll —), rare shots from the early days of the National Socialist movement and various other bits and pieces of private film.

It is a talking picture psychogram of the brilliant demagogue — the old, old story, with, in some places, exactly the same text as the television version.

The only noticeable difference is the big screen and the stereophonic effects. The production firm has spent a lot of money getting old and worn-out copies into screenworthy shape again.

We have never seen the Reichstag burning so fiercely before or the dark interior of the Potsdam Garnisonskirche lit up so well.

With no TV cutting studio to fear, Fest has got all the time and space in the world to show the jubilation of the masses and dwell on Hitler's speeches.

For minutes on end we are voyeuristic witnesses of a half pseudo religious, half-erotic union between the mis-leader and the mis-led, the seducer and the seduced, the rapturous devotion of a mass ready to do anything for the Führer — women and girls in particular (posters in the Third Reich telling young girls: "You, too, belong to the Führer.")

Hitler's contemporaries will relive good old times as they watch Leni Riefenstahl's intoxication, ecstatic films of party meetings: high on Hitler. (Leni Riefenstahl's name is not, by the way, mentioned in the film's credits.)

Fest defends his film by saying: "One should certainly show the fascinating effect he had, explain how it came about that many were fascinated by him, and thus make us, today, immune to that kind of reaction."

This is the intention. What he in fact achieves is fascination by fascination. Direction, cutting and tone all help to heighten the effect of big Nazi occasions which were themselves carefully stage-managed.

When Hitler marches alone along the Munich Königsplatz to the temple built in honour of "The Dead of the Movement", we hear the clatter of his boots on the marble tiles.

And while we watch a close up of Hitler getting ersatz satisfaction by taking, "a bath among the crowd," a phallus-like Zeppelin looms up on the screen. This is the kind of nonsense that defeats the purpose of the film.

This is a dangerous film. Not because of the accompanying commentary, which is too short and in any event above most viewers' heads, but because of its diffuseness.

The phenomenon of Hitler, his undisputed talents, his acting, his mesmerising effect) on the masses, the uninhibitedly uncritical admiration for his personality and his work dominate the film to such an extent that words such as totalitarian state, concentration camp, SS, war, death and destruction are simply submerged.

The crimes (though not all) are named, but they leave us somehow cold. In his aversion to a moralising view of history, the author Fest has committed a serious error of omission.

The director had the idea of breaking up the "Strength through Joy" scenes showing the everyday life of a people apparently happy under a dictatorship by flashes showing those Germans who are no longer there: Einstein, Thomas Mann, Max Reinhard, Kortner, Tauber, Lubitsch.

But the mention of these names is not enough: we find out nothing about all the inhumanity, philistinism, the miseries of emigration and personal despair.

And when we hear in the commentary that these refugees left the country to its provincialism, this even sounds like — though certainly was not intended to be — a reproach.

True, we do see pictures of the first concentration camps in 1933, but we do not find out who, and how many were sent to them (and there were tens of thousands.)

We are told of rivalries between the SA, SS and the Reichswehr in the summer of 1934, but the subsequent first political mass murders on German soil, ordered from on high and later declared legal are dismissed in the relatively harmless phrase that "SS leaders were killed."

There is not a single word of the coldblooded murders of generals Schleicher and Bredow, or the staff of vice-chancellor von Papen, or the murder of Hitler's one-time companion in arms Gregor Strasser and many other opponents of the regime.

We get brief glimpses of burning books, but none of burning synagogues. We see a mass execution in the East, but we are not told how many million victims the "Führer" has on his conscience.

The film is intended to illustrate the themes which Fest stresses in his fine biography (our reservations about the film do not blind us to the excellence of his book.):

- that this career, still incomprehensible to us, of the son of a provincial Austrian official, a painter, post-card designer and corporal who became lord over Europe and took on the whole world, was only possible because of "a unique combination of individual and general preconditions, by the mysterious and indecipherable correspondence betwcon this man and his time."
- that he proclaimed himself the redeemer of his race and of humanity.
- that he pursued his dream unerringly, the dream of a Eurasian empire ruled by Germans, the extermination of the Jewish race and other allegedly inferior races and the breeding of a "new man", with a conquered Russian as Garden of Eden.

Theodor Schieder, doyen of historians in this country, credited the outsider Fest with being the first historian to develop the categories within which the man Hitler could be understood as a historical phenomenon.

Golo Mann was severe in his criticism, but nonetheless conceded that Fest has written "the definitive work on this repulsive subject for the next fifteen or twenty years." Has he also produced the definitive film?

Fest's weakness as a historian is much more evident in the film than in his book.

Hermann Graml of the Munich Institute of Contemporary History defines this weakness as "amazing unsureness of judgement about all situations, factors and people who do not belong to the narrow circle around Hitler."

Fest clearly has not taken sufficient account of the fact that this is a mass product that can reach millions of people with its optical and acoustic effects, people who, despite the fact that over 500,000 copies were printed, will not have read his world bestseller and its reviews.

And most of these people will be of the younger generation, whose knowledge of Hitler and his time consists only of the completely inadequate history teaching they have had at school.



Joachim C. Fest (Photo: Sven Simon)

In this film the "situations, factors and people" of which Graml speaks are criminally ignored.

Naive filmgoers will come away with the impression that the man who ruled the Third Reich for twelve years was a superman.

He and he alone solved the unemployment problem, built the autobahns, restored "authority, order, purpose and self-confidence" and removed the dishonour of the Treaty of Versailles.

And finally he and he alone waged war with half the world for six years.

Hitler's paladins Goering, Goebbels, Himmler, Heydrich and Speer come across as merely marginal figures when they appear at all.

Where is financial adviser Schacht, who financed the Nazi economic boom? Where is Todt, who organised the building of the autobahns?

Where is Speer, who stage-managed the whole Nazi cult and stepped up arms production during the war?

Where are the Wilhelmstrasse diplomats who prepared Hitler's foreign policy coups? Where are the bankers, industrialists and estate owners who so gladly supported Hitler's arms drive and filled the coffers of his party?

Where are the judges and officials without whose collaboration the totalitarism state would not have been able to function?

Is there any mention of the fact that the megalomania and bloodthirstiness of the beer cellar demagogues is part of a tradition that goes back to the Frankfurt Paulskirche?

Where are we told that practically every one of Hitler's radical ideas — world government, racial resettlement and racial selection — were lifted from others who had these ideas before him?

The passages in the film dealing with foreign policy and the war are basically mere interspersions, but they contain unacceptable simplifications.

The Anschluss (annexation) of Austria is presented as a decision taken out of sheer boredom, the Sudeten crisis of 1938 remains completely incomprehensible.

As the war gets nearer, the chronology of the film gets more confused and the historical accuracy leaves more to be desired.

Fest claims that he in this film wanted to convey insights and impressions in "as sober, rational and objective a manner as possible."

But there is a difference between presenting debatable, but interesting, theses in a 1200-page book and relying on citizens' discrimination as one re-enacts and celebrates the Third Reich's theatre of terror in all its frightful beauty.

Such a celebration is doubly dangerous in an age in which Karlheinz Bohrer has written (in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* co-edited by Fest) that Hitler is the "hero of the conservative seventies."

Whoever lets Hitler on to the screen in this form, explaining his psyche, but not his programme and not his movement, not the social, historical and political preconditions of his success, not the predisposition and responsibility of virtually the entire people, whoever does this, even in good will, is guilty of exculpatory myth and legend creating.

He will have to accept the judgement of a Polish historian who says that the "Hitler wave" is nothing but the "expression of a dubious form of nostalgia or the pure commercialisation of a period of history still not fully researched."

Karl-Heinz Janssen

(Die Zeit, 8 July 1977)

ECONOMICS I

Oil price rises have brought unexpected benefits to industry

The people of this country are still convinced that the oil price rise of three and a half years ago was a curse.

They remember only too well the quadrupling of crude oil prices, the ban on Sunday driving, the world economic recession, the threats of an oil boycott and the soaring petrol and heating oil prices.

The crises mood of those times has left scars which will take some time to heal.

In view of this, we can hardly expect political and industrial leaders to start talking about the "blessings" of the oil price rise — even though it is probably true to say that this country has almost gained more than it has lost as a result of the oil-producing nations' "extortionate *diktat*."

The Opec cartel has caused an enormous extra reduction of purchasing power in this country of 40 thousand million marks. All but five thousand million marks of this have since flowed back into this country.

And this sum would have been skimmed off in any event as a result of normal price rises. Since 1975 debit and credit of trade and services have been balanced out evenly.

These sober figures are evidence of a profound economic change which has so far been to the benefit of this country's strong economy.

Anger at the sheiks,the Shah and socialist potentates such as Gaddhafi forcing us to pay extortionate prices for petrol and heating oil is justified.

But ten of the thirteen Opec countries make up for this by buying German products — mainly industrial plant, machines, vehicles and electronic equipment.

When Iran buys products worth millions of marks from Krupp, this may well anger car-drivers and people with oil-fired central heating who are indirectly footing the bill.

But on the other hand, they are also helping to secure jobs in a company which is by no means stable.

The 800 million marks which Kuwait paid industrialist Herbert Quandt for his fourteen per cent of Daimler shares have also been paid for out of German citizens' pockets in the form of increased oil prices.

These examples illustrate the huge shift of purchasing power away from the industrial nations to the oil-producing nations. The latter achieved a surplus of 130 thousand million dollars, only a very small proportion of which came from the weak underdeveloped countries.

The economic advantage of this structural change is that it reduces the excessive concentration on consumer goods and leads to a greater orientation towards investment goods.

Exports worth 15 thousand million marks went to the Opec states in 1976. This is 25 per cent more investment goods than the average in the overall export total.

As our export industry depends more on the sale of "intelligent goods" than mass consumer products, the creaming off of German purchasing power by the Opec states is an advantage. Experts agree that the German goverment alone would not have been in a position to bring about this redirection of the economy on such a scale.

This country has not only mastered the changes in the world economic situation resulting from the prices *diktat*, it has even managed to take advantage of and make a profit out of them.

If we look at our balance of payments, we see that in 1972, before the oil crisis, we had a deficit of two thousand million marks in our trade with the oil-producing states.

On the other hand, the Opec cartel states only achieved surpluses of 300 million marks in 1975 and 900 million marks in 1976.

The USA, Japan, France Britain and Italy all have much higher deficits in their trade with these countries. Another positive aspect of the oil price increase is better export chances in other countries.

German oil-users will not be pleased to hear this, but basically they are financing a large part of the successful German export drive.

German exports to Opec countries have increased five and a half times since 1972.

This increase is far greater than that of any of its vompetitors. In 1976, exports to Opec countries represented a good 8 per cent of total exports. This is much more than our exports to the USA or to all the East bloc countries put together.

Behind these well-balanced figures are hundreds of thousands of commercial and industrial initiatives which, when examined, reveal the nature of the structural change.

Week after week, thousands of German businessmen go off to these newly rich states trying to make their fortunes as in the days of the California gold rush.

Former Finance Minister Karl Schiller advises the Saudi Arabian government on economic and monetary policy, to name just one prominent example of the close economic ties eith this country.

A few examples will suffice to show what an important effect the oil shock had on the delivery patterns of German industry.

The highly profitable Daimler Benz AG was certainly not pleased about the Kuwait government buying shares, but on the other hand it would not be as successful as it is without the large number of lorry exports to certain Arab states.

A number of large construction companies would be on the verge of bankruptcy if it were not for building contracts in Saudi Arabia, Nigeria or Iran.

The Philipp Holzmann AG has gained the reputation of being "court contractor to the kingdom of Saudi Arabia."

The Kraftwerk-Union, one of the top international atomic power station constructors, would be in the red if it were not for major contracts in Iran.

Many German industrialists can only dream of injections of capital. The Iran government's shares in Krupp and the Kuwait government's in Daimler are not typical.

German industry has an number of built-in obstacles to prevent this kind of deal. Shareholders' meetings of the public companies Mannesmann and Bayer wrote in special clauses to discourage the purchase of large numbers of their shares.

The governments and rich men of the Orient can now purchase German shares for their portfolios, but the less successful German companies will wait in vain for investments such as those made by Saudi Arabia or Kuwait. The USA is more popular with the Opec countries in this respect.

Total German capital imports from the oil countries are not very high, even though they do increase the benefits German industry has already gaines from the increase in the price of oil.

From 1974 to 1976, about 6.6 thousand million marks of capital came into the country. This represented only 4 per cent of total investable money. The USA attracted 30 thousand million dollars from Saudi Arabia alone.

This figure of 6.6 thousand million DM dies not include short-term capital inflow, nor the thousands of millions marks which came in via third countries.

The oil price cartel has not only significantly changed the structure of the German economy, it has also brought about a new trend. It has forced us to start saving energy.

Hence the inevitable shift of investment concentration to the highly controversial atomic power stations for example — as well as the development of alternative forms of energy.

At any rate, this country, essentially, is being forced into a faster rate of economic change, if it is to keep up in the industrial nations' scramble for oil millions.

Most of our competitors have got more bad than good out of the oil nations' price *diktat*. There has been a shift of the economic balance to the disadvantage of the developing nations and the weaker industrial nations.

The USA and the Soviet Union as oil-producing nations themselves have increased their influence — their oil production also benefits from increased oil prices.

The new and the old rich nations help the weaker ones with enormous credits, but it is increasingly difficult to keep them above water.

The industrial nations will have to give the developing nations more help one way or another, if they want to keep crisis points under some kind of control.

If we look at the effect of the oil price shock on this country, we have a classical example of the theory that generous development aid pays for the industrial nations as well.

The price *diktat* of the 13 Opec nations, who before 1974 were have-nots, has forced the Germans to reduce consumption, Or would German tax-payers have been prepared to fork out even a half of the thousands of millions which these nations have now extorted from them?

Dieter Balkhausen

(Deutsche Zeitung, 19 August 1977)

Bonn under fire from abroad over trade policies

There is mounting pressure on this country from abroad to boost its economy. At the summit meeting of the main western industrial nations at the beginning of May, Helmut Schmidt managed to placate his partners, especially those in the United States, who were claiming that the Federal Republic of Germany was not making an adequate contribution to world economic recovery.

He pointed out that German imports in the past few years have increased at a faster rate than those of other countries, adding that in the future, too, this country would make a significant contribution to the growth of world trade.

He went on to explain that the Federal government had set itself a target of 5 per cent growth in the real gross national product.

It soon became clear that this declaration of intent was far too optimistic, and increasing pressure was put on Bonn to adopt a more expansive economic policy. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations World Trade Organisation recommended additional measures to boost the economy.

The U.S. Treasury Secretary Michael Blumenthal raised the dollar question and pointed out that as the German economy was not going to reach its growth target, the deutschmark needed to be revalued aginst the dollar.

At this time official sources were predicting an overall economic growth rate of 4.5 per cent. This estimate has now been revised downwards to 3 per cent or slightly more.

Given the serious unemployment situation, the Federal government now wants to take decisive action. The discussion about possible economic measures at home has led foreign protagonists of expansionist policies to tone down their demands, compared with last spring.

This comparative quiet is deceptive, especially in view of the fact that the economies of the other two main industrial nations have not lived up to their governments' expectations. In the past few days, the United States have had to readjust their growth predictions downwards.

One of the measures being discussed in this country is an extension of guarantee limits for export credits. This is certainly not a measure which would distort competition on the international markets.

By adopting this measure, the Federal Republic of Germany would be going some, but not all of the way, towards giving her exporters the same kind of support that other countries give theirs.

Yet sections of the German export industry think that thius measure, although it is long overdue, has come at the wrong time. In some countries there has been a hardening of opnion on the trade fronts.

The current discussion in France about the concept of "organised liberalism" illustrates this clearly.

And the longer unemployment remains at its present level, the stronger protectionist forces become.

An extension of guarantee limits is not a move which should provoke counter-measures.

But on the other hand the political and economic situation in some neigh-

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ECONOMICS II

Long-term boost in public spending needed, says DIW

In the second quarter of this year economic recovery ground to a halt, and the prospects of a further upswing with sufficient pace to maintain its momentum are poor to non-existent.

This alarming conclusion is reached by the DIW economic research institute, Berlin, in its latest weekly survey. The report also notes that economic recovery is a must if unemployment is to be reduced.

The Berlin economists call on the government to undertake a fresh attempt to revamp the economy on a more permanent basis and thereby help to improve the position on the labour market.

A programme of public spending must be inaugurated and there must be no hesitation to invest and boost demand in sectors where public investment is needed.

What the institute has in mind, however, is not a special investment exercise. The effects of programmes of this kind are usually offset by cuts in regular budgetary spending. What is called for is a long-term boost in public spending as a whole.

Thus the report sounds a warning note in respect of the Bonn government's long-term investment programe, the first contracts for which are currently being placed.

It would be dangerous, the Berlin economists advise, to rely on the pump-priming effect of these public works ventures. Their annual effect is too small to offset cuts in public expenditure as a whole.

Consumer demand has failed signally to respond to the cash inflow arising from increases in government children's allowances and investment incentives, so the institute has no great hopes of demand being boosted as a result of any temporary cuts in income tax that may be under consideration.

"Even if cuts in personal taxation are deemed indispensable because of the speed at which they can be undertaken," the report notes, "the emphasis must nonetheless be on expanding public expenditure."

"If speed is required it might be better to hire additional public service employees than to step up investment spending."

As for the prospects of a self-supporting upswing last winter, the Berlin economists reckon the government let the opportunity slip by keeping its sights firmly set on the target of economic consolidation.

There was a juncture, they claim, at which the economic indicators augured well for attempts to continue and intensify the upswing.

Both demand and production had taken a marked turn for the better. Sales prospects looked good, with exports holding forth the promised of steady expansion and domestic demand about to be stimulated by earnings-linked savings certificates maturing.

The business outlook likewise looked better than it had done for some time, with profits up substantially,factories working at an increasing percentage of capacity and few financial problems with cash available and interest rates low.

In the circumstances industrial and commercial investors might reasonably be expected to go ahead and invest, especially as the employers definitely fared better than the unions in last year's wage agreements.

Moderation prevailed in the 1976 wage talks round, with the result that management gained the upper hand and the pace of wage cost increases slowed down appreciably.

In retrospect, however, the Berlin institute concludes that:

— the recession was so marked and lengthy that both private investors and consumers have not only felt disinclined to run risks but remained reluctant to do so for longer than had been anticipated;

— the retarding influence of a merely moderate expansion rate has been underestimated in relation to the inflationary risks a swifter rate of expansion entails.

Since the authorities failed to appreciate this psychological obstacle to investment and consumption they continued to aim first and foremost at a balanced budget and thus, by and large, pursued restrictive policies.

Reviewing economic indicators, the survey notes that the output growth rate for manufactured goods, which is a sure sign of the overall state of the economy, declined from one and a half per cent in the first quarter of this year to one half per cent in the second quarter.

In the second quarter of this year output actually fell in the basic and capital goods sectors. Only consumer goods and the construction industry took a turn for the better.

Towards the end of last year capital investment was up substantially in real terms, so much so that the momentum seemed likely to prove self-sustaining.

But investment has since failed to increase, and domestic manufacturers have borne the brunt. In the first quarter of this year capital goods imports declined in real terms; in the second quarter they increased slightly.

Private consumption proved disappointing in the second quarter. Retail trade turnover increased, but only marginally, with only consumer durables faring at all well.

In view of employment prospects, wage increases resulting in little over one per cent more purchasing power and the likelihood of little better to come next time round, consumers have tended to exercise restraint.

As a result much less of the cash from savings certificates that have matured has been invested in consumer goods than was anticipated.

(Handelsblatt, 25 August 1977)

Bundesbank decides to loosen the purse-strings

The decision by the Bundesbank's Central Bank Council to cut by ten per cent the clearing banks; minimum statutory deposits and to increase certain other quotas has come as no surprise.

Bundesbank president Otmar Emminger announced that something of the sort would be undertaken several weeks ago. Bundesbank bankers have stayed true to their tenet of sticking their necks out as little as possible on the economic front.

Were the economic prospects a little more promising the Bundesbank might consider anti-cyclical moves in order to nip in the bud inflationary tendencies that mights arise from an upswing.

This would entail slightly scarcer money and slightly higher interest rates, but since the economic prospects hardly suggest any imminent need to nip inflation in the bud and the Bundesbank is anxious to avoid being cast in the role of scapegoat the Central Bank Council has decided instead to loosen the purse strings.

The measures undertaken are substantial. Otmar Emminger is not a man given to effusuve public statements, but this time he has referred to an "extremely substantial amount totalling thousands of millions of deutschmarks" and a "fairly massive" cut in statutory minimum reserve deposits.

Dr Emminger now maintains that the Bundesbank has gone as far as it can go and that everything that is feasible in the money supply context has now been done. He is doubtless right.

The ball is now in Bonn;s court, which is not to say that the Bundesbank can do no more; minimum reserves can always be further reduced, but sooner or later they are going to constitute no more than an alibi. Maybe they have already done so.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 26 August 1977)

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bouring countries is so unstable that their governments cannot be expected to react perfectly rationally.

Some people have got the idea into their heads that Germany is not playing its part in contributing to world economic recovery and they will not be persuaded otherwise.

The Federal government certainly does not — even involuntarily — wish to support protectionists abroad. The German economy is too dependent on exports. On the other hand, German exporters need to be given the same conditions as those in other countries if they are to take their chance.

This is the dilemma the government is now facing. It would certainly have been far easier if it had not aroused false hopes among other countries.

H.-J. Mahnke

(Die Welt, 24 August 1977)

Continued from page 4

Berg and Sohl, they say, were far more authoritative on economic policy than their successor.

One association executive had a perhaps too simple explanation: the media usually quoted Schleyer as BDA president and tended to neglect his BDI role. But this tendency is clearly a response to the fact that most of Herr Schleyer's energies are concentrated on his BDA role.

The non-industrial firms who are only represented in the BDA have other objections. Schleyer, they say, has stressed the employers' position quite satisfactorily up to now.

If, however, this should change and the pendulum swing more in the BDI's favour, this would upset the balance and create a gulf between commerce, craft industries, agriculture and other associations on the one hand and the BDA leadership on the other.

Schleyer's double presidency was an experiment the result of which no one could predict.

Given the industrial and employers' associations' role in this country's social order, it is vital that they should have a leadership that speaks out clearly on social and economic issues.

In this respect, the double presidency of the BDI and the BDA is a step in the right direction. It would be even better if companies from every branch could elect a common leadership with a broadly based organisation.

The way to this goal is hard and stony and would involve changes in tradition and power.

In the words of former BDA president Paulssen: "It is easier to get a camel through the eye of a needle than to be the leader of a businessmen's organisation."

Werner Mühlbrandt

(Die Zeit, 26 August 1977)

6 pc growth rate a 'must' for full employment

An annual economic growth rate of at least six per cent in real terms is a "must" if full employment is to be re-established by the mid-eighties, the Ifo economic research institute, Munich, says.

This claim is made in a survey published on 24 August while the Bonn Cabinet was busy considering the details of a proposed forthcoming economic booster package.

The Munich economists base their claim on the effect of pump-priming measures so far undertaken and anticipate the following trends if the average annual growth rate turns out to be no more than three and a half per cent:

— Unemployment, which stood at 1,060,000 last year, will increase to 2.2 million by 1985. In other words, it will more than double to 8.8 per cent.

— Even if half a million foreign workers had their contracts terminated during this period unemployment would still increase by 600,000 to 1.7 million, or 7.3 per cent.

This total could be further reduced by a variety of measures:

— Vocational training schemes for the unemployed could account for 100,000.

— Shorter working hours (38 instead of 40) could reduce the dole queue by a further 300,000.

A tenth year of compulsory schooling would account for 300,000 more.

— Were older workers entitled to retire early at sixty rather than at 63, as at present, a further 200,000 might choose to do so.

— Last but not least, 300,000 women could be withdrawn from circulation and potential unemployment by the introduction of a statutory year off work after childbirth.

All told, then, unemployment might be reduced from 1,060,000 last year to about 600,000 by 1985. This would amount to 2.7 per cent or so.

The Ifo economists emphasise that none of the measures proposed would, individually, have the anticipated effect.

(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 25 August 1977)

■ SPACE

Five Germans shortlisted for the European Spacelab

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Five scientists aged between 32 and 40 have been shortlisted by the Aerospace Research Institute, Cologne, as potential astronauts. They will be nominated by this country to man the European Spacelab, which is scheduled to undertake its inaugural mission in 1980.

Research and Technology Minister Hans Matthöfer announced the names of the five, who are all men incidentally, in Bonn on 22 August. He stressed the significance of the experiments they may be called on to supervise on board Spacelab.

This first European venture of its kind, backed by eleven member-countries of Esro, the European Space Research Organisation, will involve materials research (into new alloys, for instance), process engineering and biomedicine in outer space.

The materials laboratory developed as part of this country's contribution to the Spacelab project forms a mere fraction, albeit an exemplary one, of the wide range of experiments that are to be undertaken in the course of the programme.

This country's five would-be astronauts are being nominated as payload experts whose job it will be to supervise experiments as opposed, say, to piloting either Spacelab or its US launcher vehicle, the Space Shuttle.

During the inaugural mission, scheduled for 1980, a total of 77 space experiments will be conducted jointly by Europe and the United States, Esro's contribution will be a further 77 experiments.

Blast-off will mark rhe end of Spacelab research and development, which will have cost 1,200 million deutschmarks, with the Bonn Ministry of Research and Technology footing 53 per cent of the bill.

Esro member-countries have between them shortlisted sixty would-astronauts. A final squad of six will be selccted and put forward to Nasa, the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration, at the beginning of next year.

But only one of the six will become the first European astronaut, with one other would-be astronaut on standby and ready to take over at the last minute if need be.

Hans Matthöfer naturally hopes that one of Bonn's five candidates will make the running.

Four of them are physicists, one an engineer — Dietmar Sengespeik, A VFW-Fokker development engineer and test pilot from Bremen.

The four are Reinhard Furrer, Rainer Schwenn, Ernst Messerschmidt and Ulf Merbold. They are currently employed at the Free University, West Berlin, the Max Planck Extra-Terrestrial Physics and Metal Research Institutes in Garching, near Munich, and Stuttgart respectively, and the Desy particle accelerator in Hamburg.

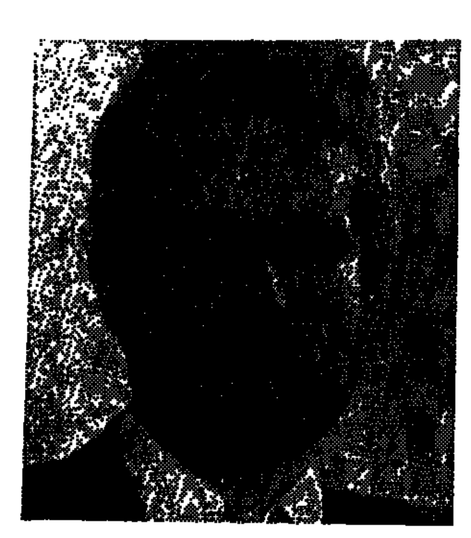
Dr Messerschmidt (all four hold physics PhDs) was a plumber and fitter by trade before studying physics, mathematics and cybernetics.

These five men have been selected after extensive trials as the most suitable of 703 applicants. The selectors, Herr Matthöfer claimed, had not been on the lookout for supermen; all they required were healthy, qualified scientists.

Thirty-five women had been among the original seven hundred applicants, but 32 of them lacked the scientific qualifications and the remaining three failed the subsequent psychological tests.

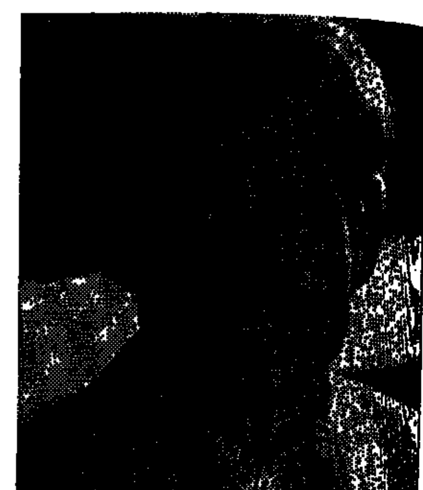
They may or may not be consoled by the thought, voiced by Herr Matthöfer, that the tests had in any case been devised by men.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 23 August 1977)

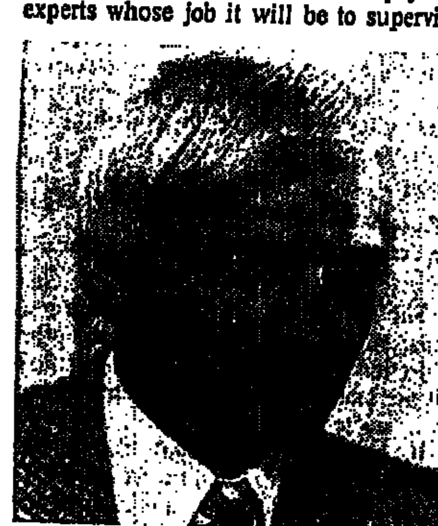


Reinhard Furrer, 37, single, is Associate Professor in solid state physics at West Berlin's Free University.

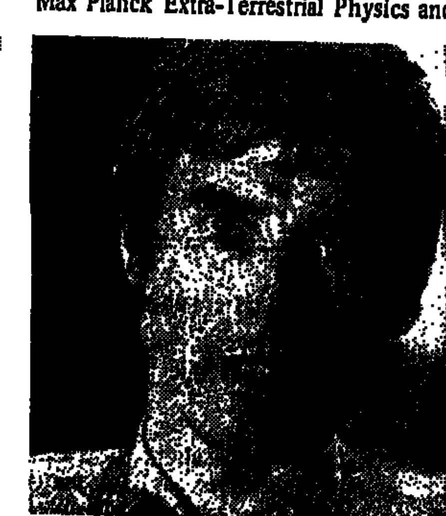
(Photos: dpa)



Rainer Schwenn, 36, married, with three children, works at the Max Planck Institute for Extra-Terrestial Physics in Garching on solar research.



Ernst Messerschmid, 32, married, works at the Desy particle accelerator in Hamburg, on radiation research.



Ulf Merbold, 36, married, with one daughter. He works for the Max Planck Institute for Metal Research in Stuttgart.



Dietmar Sengespeik, 40, single, is a development engineer and test pilot in Bremen. His hobby is geology.

Furnace in space to test metal alloys

Texus 1, a capsule built by Erno, the Bremen space engineering firm, is to be laucnhed to an altitude of 300 kilometres by a British Skylark 7 rocket this November in Kiruna, Sweden.

The capsule will be used for high-altitude experiments with metal alloys before returning to a location within the city limits.

Kiruna, a name indelibly associated with Swedish iron ore, is — it is only fair to add — a town with a population of a mere 30,000 spread over a fairly wide area.

Its high-alttitude rocket launching range is in regular use, and Texus, the latest customer, is an acronym standing for technological experiments at zero gravity (in German).

The November launching from a site near the Arctic Circle will mark the beginning of preparations for Europe's Spacelab missions. Spacelab will be launched in the eighties by the US Space Shuttle.

The Texus project is headed by Professor Hans Ahlborn of Hamburg University. It will involve producing, at zero gravity, metal alloys that cannot be manufactured on Earth.

The most important part of the 250-kg (5501b) payload will be a small foundry with four chambers in which

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THE ARTS

International cartoons on show in Berlin

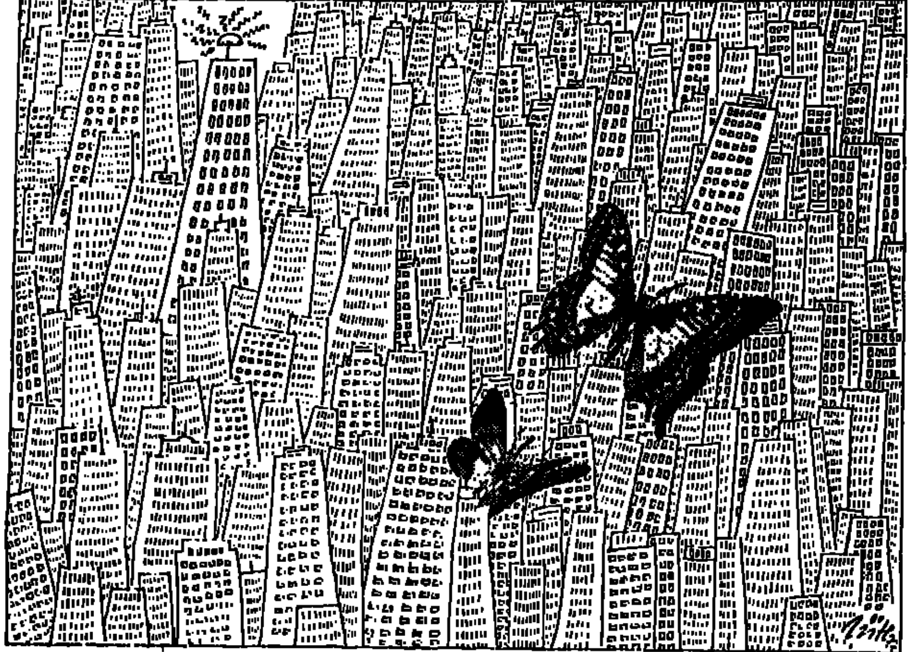
"Laughter is international." These are the words of Walther Rimpler, head of "Infoplan" who are putting on the second World Cartoon Exhibition in Berlin, "Cartoon 77."

The exhibition was opened by Berlin Senate spokesman Peter Sötje, who also awarded the golden, silver and bronze "Heinrich" prizes.

The prizewinners were chosen by a twelve man jury. The first two prizes went to the German cartoonists Tüfe Hagedorn (first prize) and K. H. Schoenefeld. Three third prizes were awarded: to Barbara Ross, Stephan Bohumil and Velkov Velko.

The exhibition on the fourth floor of the Europe Centre lasts from the 15 August to the 30 September, daily from 10 to 18 hours. Entry to the exhibition is free. There are 800 cartoons from 52 countries.

Over 1700 works were submitted for the exhibition — biting humour from East and West. This is the first time "political cartoons" have been exhibited; two years ago there were none.



Prize-winning cartoon, "In the year 2002: Unidentified Flying Objects" (Photo: Katalog)

In a foreword to the exhibition catalogue, the actor Heinz Rühmann writes: "'Cartoons' shows the work of the most original cartoonists in the world, and all in one place."

For him, cartoonists are suspicious of the 'intact world' or 'all's well with the world' philosophy. "They do not like the rule, they like the exception."

From the 19 August onwards there will also be an exhibition of the work of the Berlin cartoonist Ole Jensen, who died recently. *dpa*

(Kieler Nachrichten, 16 August 1977)

French-German Siegfried duo saves the show

Connoisseurs reckon that the performance of "Siegfried" at Bayreuth last Saturday was the most sensational in the festival's 101-year history.

A rapturous public showered the two heroes of this French-German duo with flowers and thunderous applause.

The duo? Director Patrice Chéreau stood in for the injured René Kollo who had broken his foot, and mimed the part of Siegfried while Kollo sat in the wings — invisible to the public — and sang the title role.

René Kollo's accident happened while he was sailing. Director Patrice Chéreau volunteered to mime the part of Siegfried — to save the show.

The result was 30 encores and continuous applause lasting almost forty minutes — a just reward for the two Siegfrieds' brilliant performance.

(Neue Ruhr Zeitung, 22 August 1977)

Tin figure exhibition in Kulmbach breaks all records

Tin figure collectors from all over the world — Brazil, Australia, and Canada — came to the small Upper Franconian town of Kulmbach recently, for the 6th International Tin Figure Market.

Not only was there an incomparable display of simple and painted figures on view, with all kinds of accessories and literature, but it also showed some of the main trends in this creative hobby.

Interest in this event, which is unique in the world, is growing all the time. There were about 3,000 collectors from eighteen European and overseas countries, and the exhibition was full to bursting point.

There were so many people there over the three days that you could hardly move between the stands of the 96 exhibitors from England, Belgium, Sweden, Austria, Spain and Germany. The number of visitors and the number of exhibitors were both a record.

The most interesting trend is the increasing popularity of round tin figures of five centimetres and above. There was also a wide range of flat show case figures up to nine centimetres tall.

In the traditional 30 millimetre range there was the usual huge display with a very high quality of engraving and casting, but on the other hand there was few new departures in this field.

The range of subjects on show at Kulmbach was simply inexhaustible. Of course there were plenty of the usual Adam and Eves — an overworked subject — but apart from these there was Carthaginian and Numidian knights, the Blankenese fish-wife, gloriously coloured Swabian-Allemanian carnival figures down to an SS Hitler body guard.

The prominence of black SS, brown SA and field grey German *Wehrmacht* figures on the international tin figure market is attributed to the great interest in them shown by collectors in the USA and England.

On a Spanish stand they march past Hitler and Mussolini in goose-step.

This unmistakable trend evokes mixed feelings among German collectors who remember that tin soldiers were the subject of some controversy after the Second World War.



A kettle-drummer of the Brunswick Hussars Regiment no. 17 of 1900 (Photo: dpa)

Tin figures, just like everything else, are getting more expensive. The price for an unpainted, flat 30 millimetre footsoldier has risen from 60 to 80 pfennigs, for cavalrymen from 1.20 to 1.60 marks.

The most expensive figure put up for sale at Kulmbach was a six centimetre general on a horse made in 1709. This hand-made show case figure from England cost 800 marks. *dpa*

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 16 August 1977)

Kassel *documenta* hole is plugged

The famous hole at the Kassel *documenta* exhibiton has, we hear, been filled in. The American Walter de Maria wanted to dig a hole in which he then wanted to put a brass pole one kilometre long and five centimetres wide.

The spot is now going to be sealed up with a sandstone slab, on which a brief explanation of the whole enterprise will be given in ten languages.

But one hopes the explanation will not be too brief. We must think of our children and children's children. In 50 or 100 years' time they will stand in front of the sandstone slab and read the explanation. In all likelihood they will think it is all a mysterious trick.

They will rack their brains trying to work out what it all means. They will look for a message in code. Congresses will be held in which experts will put forward their theories.

Others will tap their foreheads with their index fingers and explain that their great grandfathers hid gold or maybe atomic waste there under the guise of a work of art.

There will be heated public discussion about whether they should leave it as it is or dig it put and find out what is inside. And then one night someone will come along and dig it up. And find nothing.

We should leave our great grandchildren a clue on the sandstone slab: "This is a hole, and nothing but a hole. There is no point in digging. There is nothing in here. Not even a meaning."

(Die Welt, 20 August 1977)

Row over new-style Passion Play at Oberammergau

The 1980 Passion Plays will be a hard cross for Oberammergau to bear. The last rehearsals were performed recently on the huge open air stage, the largest in Europe.

A new version of the play is being tried out in these rehearsals. But the "1980 Passion Play Citizens Action Group" utterly reject this new-fangled version.

They demand an immediate referendum to decide what form this Passion play, which has been performed since the middle of the 16th century, should take.

The argument about the 1980 Passion play has aroused strong emotions in the village, which has a population of 4,200. Many friends have suddenly become enemies as a result.

The reformers' camp claims that the new version would dispel criticism that it contained historical errors and anti-Semitic tendencies.

Anton Presinger, on the other hand, the former director and actor who played the part of Christ, counters that "the new version is not suited for Oberammergau and amateur actors in its language and its construction."

Dr Helmut Fischer, deputy mayor of the town, who play the part of Pontius Pilate: "The new version has proved a sound basis for a new production."

Old or new, the rehearsals of the Passion play have certainly brought some money into the coffers of the Bavarian village: about 30,000 people saw the first rehearsald for the 1980 play. And all tickets cost 10 marks and above.

The production is still very much in its early stages. The amateur players appeared on the stage clean-shaven. The Oberammergau village council had decided that actors will not have to have beards until the play proper begins in 1980.

But it is not just the question of beards and new versions that is getting the citizens steamed up.

The question of whether the actress playing the Virgin Mary's part should herseld be a virgin also caused a lot of strong feeling, not just among the cast of 700.

According to rules which have applied for the last 340 years, the part of Jesus' mother can only be played by a single woman under 35 years of age and intact. As such women seem to be increasingly hard to come by these days, the Oberammergau council has decided to relax the rules.

In spite of all these difficulties, there is one thing the people of Oberammergau can be absolutely sure of: the 1980 Passion play will make them a lot of money. In 1970 there were 529,775 visitors who put 18 million marks into Oberammergau's coffers.

(Welt am Sonntag, 21 August 1977)

EXHIBITIONS

Berlin looks back with nostalgia at the Twenties



Berlin has turned back the pages of history fifty years to the nineteen twenties, its most hectic and exciting years.

The fifteenth European Council exhibition is the third which has been held in this country. (The others were "The Age of Rococo", 1958, Munich, and "Charlemagne," 1965, Aachen.)

The title of the exhibition is "Tendencies of the Twenties." More than any of the previous exhibitions, it throws light on the cultural and artistic affinities between the countries of Europe.

It is also deals with an age which is historically closer and therefore more accessible for us today.

There is no denying that Berlin dominates the exhibition: with its brillant minds, its bustle and hectic pace of life, its intensity. But the exhibition does not confine itself to this dazzling aspect.

It also shows us the other side of the coin: economic crises, fighting in the streets, the shattering of utopian visions. It is nostalgia, but with the dissecting knife.

The whole town is taking part in this exhibition, the largest in Berlin since the war; the various art collections, the galleries and the festival starting in September with its theatre, opera and concert performances and its literary events, they all bear the exhibition's stamp.

All the main museums in the ten member states of the European Council are contributing works. Museums in Canada and New York also sent important works — a remarkable piece of generosity.

The Berlin exhibition can boast a number of big names: Picasso, Max Ernst, de Chirico, Miró, Matisse, Beckmann, Dix, Grosz. The insurance value of the paintings exhibited is 200—250 million marks — a figure likely of inspire awe among the financially-minded.

But the importance of this mammoth programme with its 2,360 works and its famous names cannot merely be expressed in figures.

Berlin claims it is "the most significant cultural event in Germany in 1977", a statement obviously intended to put the *documenta* exhibition in Kassel firmly in its place.

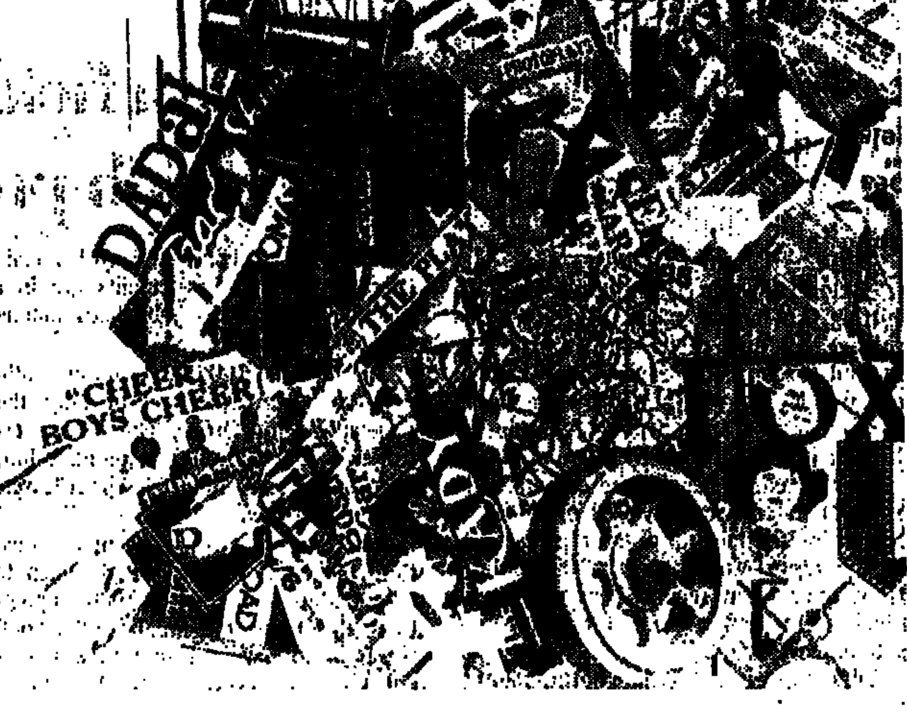
What makes this exhibition so significant is the period itself and the way it deals with this period.

We are still, to a large extent, living off the fat of this age: with its infinite range of styles, from abstract to realistic, its models for architecture, design, fashion, advertising, film.

This is the first time that the various movements and counter-movements of the age have all been brought together into a huge reflector which illuminates all the various tendencies.

The exhibition is divided up into four main parts: In the National Gallery, we are shown the way "from Constructivism to Concrete Art." The Academy of Arts presents: "Planning and Building in Europe from 1913 to 1933" and "Dada in Europe — Works and Documents." And in the Orangerie of Charlottenburg castle: "Surrealism and New Objectivity."

The revolutionary mood of those years — throughout Europe — the hope for a new age, its partial achievement and its failure are all clearly brought out in the National Gallery's "From Constructivism to Concrete Art" — despite its rather dry title.



Grosz/Heartfield: "Enjoying the High Life in Universal City at noon" (1919)

The director of this part of exhibition, Dieter Honisch, presents us with a comprehensive panorama in which the interaction between theory and works of art is shown. The manifestoes and chronology of the period are shown on huge placards.

There is an excellent catalogue to the exhibition, but it is rather too bulky to carry round on the long march around the displays.

Photos of building, models, furniture and craft alongside the classical media of drawings, paintings and sculpture illustrate the wide-ranging ambitions of the various movements which had declared war on the mere representation of "nature." In three phases we see how these movements started, how they developed and how they finally burnt themselves out.

Away from accidental appearances and intuition towards an objective, measurable vocabulary and a constructible reality — this is the dominant artistic philosophy of the years 1910—1916.

The main movements of this time are cubism and futurism — represented in different ways, but always spontaneously and personally — by Picasso and the Italian Balla, the Frenchman Delaunay and Kandinsky, a Russian who lived and worked in Germany.

Piet Mondrian and Kasimir Malewitch are the coolest and most consistent representatives of this philosophy: with sharply delineated geometrical forms. They both — independently of one another — wanted to conquer nature with pure colour.

Beckmann's "Die Nacht" (Night) (1918/1919) (Photo: Katalog)

In his "Suprematist Manifesto" of 1915, Malewitch writes: "When we get out of the habit of considering paintings a representation of nature with madonnas and blushing, Venus-like creatures, then we will have the pure painted product."

The first phase of the artistic revolution takes place on canvas, the second goes beyond it. In the years 1917 to 1922, which were dominated by the Russian revolution, the artistic utopia measured itself against political reality. Art tried to permeate every area of life.

This was the age symbolised by Tatlin's famous "Tower Model" for the Third International in Petrograd in 1920. The tower was never built, but it stood for a new technological age in which the painting was rejected.

El Lissitsky rejoices at the death of the painting: "The painting died with the church and the God it both proclaimed, along with the sofa and the philistine who considered paintings the icon of happiness."

The Dutch Gruppe de Stijl of van Doesburg and Piet Mondrian, the Bauhaus in Germany, Antoine Pevsner, Naum Gabo and Tatlin in Russian all tried to achieve the desired "unity of art and life."

But this equation did not work our any better then than it does today. Their social commitment, their idea of a new kind of art for a new man, found expression more in theory — in fiery manifestoes — than in practice.

We see this in the third section of the National Gallery exhibition. The high flown ideas are cut down to size, in architecture and in applied arts.

They took on shape — a shape which is still highly influential today. Here we find the rectilineal furniture, functional lamps, the first steel tube chairs by Marcel Breuer, crockery and cutlery of great purity of form.

The lesson we learn from this is: "Painting is dead! Long live painting!"

The Pole Strzeminski with his monochrome picture structures took the step back — or forward — to the autonomous canvas, to a new, self-sufficient painting which van Doesburg, himself taking up painting again, apostrophised as "concrete art."

If one follows the ages of art, of arts and what passed (and passes) for it in this exhibition and in Kassel, one can only conclude: Tempora non mutantur!

Heidi Bürklin

(Die Welt, 13 August 1977)

Furnace in space

Continued from page 8

samples can be heated to temperatures of 1,400 degrees centigrade.

In terrestrial gravitational conditions metals have to be brought to the boil in a furnace, as it were, whereas in outer space they can be kept in position by means of high-frequency sound waves.

Research scientists hope that alloys produced in outer space will prove pure to a degree unattainable on Earth.

A skin develops on the surface of liquid alloys as they cool, affecting them in a specific way. On Earth this skin cracks under gravitational pressure; in outer space it ought to remain intact.

One of the five experiments to be undertaken on board Texus 1 will involve an alloy of aluminium and lead which should prove ideal for use in certain bearings in the motor industry.

Here on Earth, however, this alloy is impossible to produce because liquid aluminium is so light that it just refuses to mix with the much heavier liquid lead.

If everything goes ahead according to plan the Texus payload will float serenely down to Earth by parachute six minutes after take-off, while the carrier rocket will crash-land in an uninhabited part of Kiruna.

Initially seven Texus payloads were to be launched at Kiruna, but it now looks like the Spacelab boffins will have to make do with four. The project is financed by the Bonn Ministry of Research and Technology. *Kurt Trettner*

(Die Zeit, 12 August 1977)

■ EMPLOYMENT

Forecasters have a field day over school-leavers' job prospects

As the summer holidays draw to a close a year's school-leavers will be hitting the labour market. With teenage job-seekers and their parents shopping around for apprenticeships many people are wondering whether there are going to be enough apprenticeships, traineeships or just plain jobs to go round.

At this early stage there can be little more than conjecture based on more or less coincidental snippets of news such as the report that nearly 1,200 applications have been received by the municipal authorities in Bonn for 82 jobs for school-leavers.

Lüneburg and Stade, both country areas near Hamburg, claim on the other hand to be desperately short of apprentice tradesmen and artisans, while the construction industry is advertising widely for apprentices.

The Labour Exchange at Dortmund in the Ruhr reports a perceptible decline in the number of school-leavers seeking its assistance despite an overall increase in the number of teenagers who have actually left school this summer.

In Dortmund at any rate there appear to be ten per cent more apprenticeships available than there are school-leavers to take them up.

"Let us never, never doubt what nobody is sure about" seems to be the motto as forecasters have a field day in the general atmosphere of uncertainty as to the outcome of the forthcoming battle to find jobs for school-leavers.

Yet the debate seems less and less motivated by concern about the future of school-leavers themselves.

Slogans currently in currency would seem to indicate that the pundits are keener to grind their various axes than join forces in the interest of the youngsters.

The annual run on apprenticeships is being transformed into an ideological battlefield. Ought the State to exert greater influence on the way trade and industry run their affairs or not?

The two sides are busy manning the ramparts of the positions held prior to last winter's Vocational Training Act. Advocates of the proposed vocational training levy, foremost among whom are the trade unions, are anxious to ensure that the government is empowered to raise it.

They argue that this levy will solve all the problems at one fell swoop. Arguments of this kind are frequently advanced in the educational sector. Scepticism and objections or misgivings likewise encounter a barrage of criticism.

In the context of current debate the government has sought to convoy the impression that it has industry on the run.

Employers promised to take on 100,000 additional apprentices and trainees this autumn, in return for which Bonn dispensed with the immediate introduction of a levy payable by employers who do not train apprentices.

This, however, is a grossly oversimplified version of the true story. Employers did not formally undertake to provide the magic figure of additional apprenticeships (how could they have done?), and the government did not have enough figures on which to base the proposed levy.

Even so, the ball is well and truly in the employers' court and will remain there for as long as pundits are in a position to forecast job chaos among school-leavers.

The national 100,000 recurs in another context. At the end of July the Federal Labour Office, Nuremberg, estimated that 300,000 apprenticeships were on offer to 400,000 school-leavers in search of one.

It all adds up to a convenient equation: the employers have undertaken to take on an additional 100,000 apprentices, this being the number of school-leavers who have yet to find a job. If any school-leavers are forced to sign on as unemployed it will thus be the employers who are to blame.

Spokesmen for the employers reckon current prospects are none too bad, and certainly no worse than a year ago. If this is the case the situation does not, indeed, look too bad.

This time last year it also looked as though there were going to be 100,000 jobs too few for school-leavers. Yet this year the supply is up ten per cent, whereas demand has increased by a mere eight per cent. So the situation is certainly no worse.

Estimates of this kind are readily bandied about, but do the individual job-seeker no good al all. Competition is definitely tougher, as spokesmen for the employers willingly admit.

Too many youngsters are competing for apprenticeships in the top dozen favoured trades. Demand is too high for white-collar jobs while there are not enough apprentices to go round in construction, mechanical engineering and the blue-overalled finishing trades as a whole.

This is why the statistics inevitably convey a distorted picture, based as they are on figures for all trades and the entire country.

Take, for instance, the discrepancy between civil and electrical engineering. At the end of May, according to the Federal Labour Office, the shortage of apprentices in civil engineering exactly corresponded to the surplus of apprentices in electrical engineering.

So the conclusion must be that this year, as in the past, not every school-leaver will be able to take up an apprenticeship in the trade he or she wants or, for that matter, in the preferred locality.

It is a moot question whether this has ever been the case, but the Nuremberg agency appeals to school-leavers to learn a trade of some kind or other even if they draw a blank in the trade they would soonest have learnt.

If you have not learnt a trade of any kind your prospects are sure to be worse, Labour Office spokesmen note. You cannot, for instance, qualify for government retraining. Some consolation!

Realism requires that a mention be made of the handicaps that prevent optimum utilisation of capacity (a problem that also arises at universities and institutes of higher education).

Youth employment regulations make it increasingly difficult for employers to gainfully employ apprentices in hotel and catering and a number of other trades.

The union wage rates for apprentices have also been increased at such an alarming rate that employers can hardly be overjoyed at the prospect of paying so much for the privilege of training youngsters.

Last but not least, many school-leavers apply to several potential employers, frequently not crying off until it is too late for the firm to find suitable alternative applicants.

At Hoechst, the Frankfurt chemicals company, one apprenticeship in four is called off in this way.

What, then, about the additional 100,000 jobs allegedly needed this autumn? At this stage it would appear realistic to assume that roughly one third of this number will prove an accurate figure.

According to the Federal government's vocational training report an additional 26,000 to 33,000 apprenticeships will be required this time round.

As for the vocational training levy, ought is advocates to go all out for their objective regardless of the economic situation?

The government reckons at least 12½ per cent too many apprenticeships ought to be available. This is certainly beyond the employers' capacity at present.

School-leavers themselves are not interested in apprenticeships that are surplus to requirements. Enough to go round is all they ask for. Employers are trying hard to bridge the gap.

The iron and steel industry, for instance, recalling Chancellor Schmidt's suggestion that universities might consider working two shifts, has worked out the details of a two-shift training scheme in its sector.

Chambers of commerce and industry will also be doing their best to advise youngsters, pointing out how many alternatives there are to the trades that happen to be popular at present.

But measures such as these are restricted in their scope. It is so much easier to generalise. Time alone will tell how successfully the problems are solved.

Klaus-U. Ebmeyer

(Deutsche Zeitung, 19 August 1977)

Plan to let jobless youngsters train alongside prisoners

Baden-Württemberg Justice Ministry is to go ahead with controversial plans to train 22 youngsters who have failed to find an apprenticieship elsewhere alongside convits at youth penitentiaries in Adelsheim and Schwäbisch Hall.There has, to say the least, been mixed response to the idea of serving an apprenticeship "behind bars" — even though both gaols have surplus capacity and enjoy a reputation for providing a thorough grounding in the trades taught.

Ministry officials in Stuttgart hope to kill two birds with one stone. They will be helping school-leavers who have proved unable to find an apprenticeship in the normal way while at the same time, or so they claim, doing the youthful prison inmates a good turn.

Convicts will benefit from conversation and contact with 22 youngsters from the outside world, feel less isolated and be in a better position to fend for themselves in the critical period following release.

The mere fact that "outsiders" are learning a trade in the prison workshops could well prove beneficial in persuading inmates who are inhibited and lacking in self-confidence to follow suit.

So it looks as though the 22 are expected to lend a hand in psychiatric and therapeutic treatment of convicts.

This is a tall order and Rolf Zelter and Jürgen Mutz, governors of Schwäbisch Hall and Adelsheim respectively, realise that apprentices from "outside" are going to require careful selection and briefing.

The situation will also need to be discussed thoroughly with parents. "Unstable youngsters are certainly not what we want," Rolf Zelter comments. "We have enough of them already."

Jürgen Mutz is even more forthright. "Sooner or later," he notes, "one of our lads is sure to ask the newcomers whether they know anything about criminal techniques and deride their ignorance."

This is by no means the only problem. Instructors are accustomed to strict discipline. They will now have to be less drastic.

The officials responsible for the experiment will be following its progress closely. "At the first sign of trouble it will be called off," Rolf Zelter says.

The 22 would be the ones to suffer if this proved necessary. They would have to abandon their apprenticeships through no fault of their own.

Even if they complete them there may still be trouble in store. Their papers will indicate that they have learnt their trade in gaol.

They can easily prove that they were not in there as convicts, but the very word may be sufficient to discourage potential employers.

It is hardly surprising that vocational guidance officers at the labour exchanges in Schwäbisch Hall and Tauberbischofsheim take a dim view of the project.

In Schwäbisch Hall, for instance, the official view is that the proposal is unsuitable and, all things considered, a drop in the ocean.

Fortunately the town itself has no need of the scheme. There are still enough apprenticeships available on the open market, youth employment officers point out.

The Federal Labour Office, Nuremberg, shares the scepticism felt by local labour exchanges, Schwäbisch Hall concludes.

In Tauberbischofsheim officials are less strongly opposed to the scheme — probably because they have fewer vacancies available. But they too would, for the time being, only recommended it as a last resort. Still, they do not dismiss out of hand the possibility of success.

Justice Ministry officials in Stuttgart reckon the merits of the experiment are sufficient to warrant trial regardless of misgivings.

Funds have been earmarked to ensure that the outside apprentices' wages can be paid. They will attend sandwich courses at a local "outside" trades college.

This too will kill two birds with one stone. While workshop training is generally acknowledged to be good in prison, the theoretical grounding is considered to be less satisfactory.

Lothar K. Frost

(Münchner Merkur, 18 August 1977)

■ MEDICINE

Cologne neurologist studies the psychological effects of sterilisation on women

Women are getting tired of the Pill. Almost a third of all women between 15 and 45 in this country still take the hormone tablets daily, but many are developing an aversion to this chemical manipulation of their uterus, especially if they have been taking the Pill for a number of years.

The problem with sterilisation is its finality. It brings with it a number of strains and difficulties which demand a high degree of empathy on the doctor's part. The doctor's responsibility is also considerable.

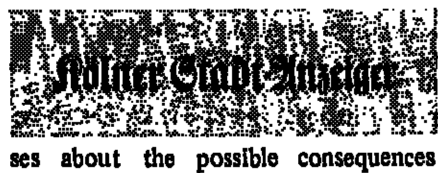
In view of this, it is amazing that so little research has been done into the possible consequences of sterilisation on a large scale. Research has up to now been confined to cases where sterilisation operations were performed for medical or genetic reasons.

The Cologne neurologist and psychotherapist Dr Parvin Lenhard has now published a thorough analysis of this delicate subject.

She looked through the Health Office lists of patients sterilised in 1971.

In all there were 200, of which she chose 65 for her research three years later: the women were all middle class, aged between 25 and 45 and, with one exception, mothers of two to nine children.

The results of this research which was carried out over a number of years prove the exact opposite of previous hypothe-



ses about the possible consequences of sterilisation.

Sterilisation can be positive if the woman makes the decision quite independently, without being pressed into it, for whatever reason, by her husband; and also if the woman is not practically forced to take this step as a result of a serious illness.

One young woman who had to have an abortion because of serious danger to her health and then immediately afterwards got sterilised, suffered from pregnancy symptoms for months afterwards.

Whenever she saw another pregnant woman she experienced her pregnancy as her own — and precisely the same stage of pregnancy as the other woman. She dreamt about births too. Later, with psychological help, she was able to come to terms with sterilisation.

This, and a number of similar cases — several women were sterilised immediately after their last pregnancy — led Dr Lenhard to the conclusion that every kind of enforced decision — even if it is subconscious — causes the women involved to doubt whether what they have done is right and causes them a lot of psychological suffering.

She concludes that sterilisation should not, as is often the case, for reasons of surgical expediency, be performed immediately after an abortion or a birth, because the woman often regards this as a decision which has been forced upon her.

The doctor goes on to argue that a woman would not experience any of the positive effects if the operation was performed soon after a birth. Her freedom to make a decision is seriously limited by the new-born child and she has to give up her wish to return to work or have more free time.

This limitation makes it highly unlikely sterilisation on purely medical grounds will be a success. This means that the attitude of many gynaecologists, who "naturally" have nothing against sterilisation if the woman's health is endangered or she is likely to have handicapped children needs to be revised.

But a number of other assumptions about the circumstances in which sterilisations should be performed need rethinking. The "ideal" sterilisation patient is not the woman over 35 who already has several children and has decided in agreement with her husband, that she wants no more.

This has up to now been the general rule among Health Office specialists and most experts agree that this is the assumption that most gynaecologists seem to work on.

If the woman has strong maternal instincts — if for example she already has several children and is being sterilised for financial reasons — this general rule does not apply.

Such a woman, who is fixated on her maternal role, may suffer much more from the loss of fertility than a young woman with only one child who wants to concentrate on her career, but is not allowed a sterilisation.

Dr Lenhard stresses that it is extremely important that women be given psychological help and advice before taking a final decision.

In her estimation it is equally important that women be given psychological help to enable them to come to terms with their loss of fertility.

Primitive races disown barren women and even in the age of the contraceptive pill there is still something magic about fertility: a British study shows that it takes about to year to get over the effects of loss of fertility.

The Cologne research makes it impressively clear that if she is thoroughly prepared, the psychologically stable woman can only benefit from sterilisation. Freed from the fear of unwanted pregnancy or the unpleasant and even unbearable side-effects of the Pill, she can enjoy more than just increased sexual pleasure.

Women who have taken this step quite freely feel freer and more well-balanced. The get on better with their children and find housework easier.

One woman even decided to take up her former profession after fifteen years of absence. It proved a very successful move and for this she can thank the operation that radically changed her life: sterilisation.

Marianne Quoirin

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 20 August 1977)

OUR WORLD

Why the number of Germans emigrating each year is increasing

WELT am SONNTAG

The first of the 38 passengers saunter up to the Lufthansa counter at Frankfurt airport. It is about 6 o'clock in the evening of an oppressive, rainy day.

The young men are wearing jenas and open-necked shirts, the women sandals and T-shirts. A four-year-old girl holds her doll tightly.

It would be just like any holiday flight to Teneriffe — but for the tears. And the tears are because these 38 passengers have no return ticket. When they take off in the 21.30 Jumbo-jet, they will be leaving for ever. They are emigrating to Australia.

They are 38 of the 50,000 Germans who leave this country every year. About 22,000 of these go overseas — to Australia, Canada, the USA, Brazil and South Africa. Practically all of them are professionally qualified and already have a job when they go.

"For 50 to 60 per cent of the emigrants economic and professional reasons are the main motive," according to the Central Labour Exchange (ZAV) in Frankfurt. Only about 6 per cent leave the country for political motives.

For about six years now, emigration advice bureaus, job agencies and the embassies of the countries concerned have noticed a "get up and go" mood here, an urge to get away.

The number of applications to the ZAV for work abroad rose from 42,958 in 1971 to 77,358 in 1976.

The Raphaelswerk, a Caritas organisation with 28 emigration advice bureaus all over the country, found that in the year 1975—1976 there was an almost 50 per cent increase: from 9,025 to 13,294.

The Australian embassy even reports a trebling of the number of applications.

These enquiries and applications come mainly from people in professions which have been very hard hit by unemployment: engineers, technicians and highly skilled industrial workers, skilled workers from the metal, electrical and chemical industries and the building industry.

Over a third of all the unemployed in this country today come from these industries. 69 per cent of the 2,300 Germans who got jobs through the ZAV last year came from these branches of industry.

Yet it is not economic hardship which causes so many of these workers to seek their fortunes abroad. It is cool calculation. They reckon that their chances of getting on are better abroad.

Günter May, a Cologne architect who was one of those who got on the Jumbo jet to Australia, says: "I do not see much chance of getting on here."

A constructional engineer from Bremen, who started up his own business four months ago, explains: "I get up at five in the morning and work through till eight at night and all I earn is 4,000 marks a month. And there is not much left of that after tax. I have go no chance here."

A graduate chemist from Göttingen: "I have got no chance of bettering myself here. Germany is too highly industrialised and everyone works in a very narrow, specialised field."

A technician from a Bremen machine-tools factory: "I don't think things will be easier over there (in Brazil) but I'll certainly be able to get on quicker and go further."

A Stuttgart chemical laboratory worker: "My son is very gifted in making things with his hands, but his school marks are bad. Can you tell me how he is going to get an apprenticeship when even Abiturienten (pupils with the equivalent of the Advanced level examination) are going for that kind of job?"

His wife adds: "Everything is so bureaucratic here. We are treated like children."

Is this country now facing a new wave of emigration, like those which took place in crisis years in the past?

In the second half of the nineteenth century 100,000 to 220,000 Germans emigrated annually, fleeing from political troubles and economic hardship.

Many did not even reach their destinations. Up to 20 per cent died of starvation or disease, sleeping on the lower deck of emigrant ships on crossings which often lasted months.

There were record levels of emigration in the years following the two world wars: in 1923 a total of 115,431 Germans left their homeland, and in 1949 the figure was even 270,000.

Gerhard Storbeck, 65, now director of Germany's oldest emigration Bureau in Bremen recalls that "in those days people would take any kind of job they could get", but adds that "today no one is prepared to go for just any price."

The countries concerned have since taken measures to make immigration more difficult. This is to protect their own economies, which have been much more affected by the world economic crisis.

Unemployment is higher: in the United States it is 7.7 per cent, in Canada 7.1 per cent, in Australia 4.7 per cent. (In this country it is 4.1 per cent.)

Inflation rates are also much higher than our level of 4 per cent. In the United States the rate of inflation is 6 per cent, in Australia 13.5 per cent, in Canada 7.5 per cent, in Brazil 35 per cent and in South Africa it is even 75 per cent.

The United States has reduced the number of immigrants it allows in to 20,000 per annum. Australia accepted only 52,000 of 290,000 applicants.

The only applicants to be given visas were "national need cases" i.e. those who worked in professions where labour was in short supply.

The situation in Canada is similar. There you even have to produce a contract before they will accept you as an immigrant. This means that of the classical emigration countries only South Africa is open to all.

The result is that would-be emigrants were increasingly turning towards developing countries with expanding economies — in particular Latin America, above all Brazil: the Middle East, (mainly Saudi Arabia) and African countries. But most people only stay in these countries for a limited period of time.

Theo H. Bakkers, head of the Bonn branch of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration, makes this comment: "It is no longer the emigrants who regulate the overseas labour market, it is the overseas labour market that regulates the number of emigrants." The ICEM finds jobs in Latin America for about 400 Germans every year.

Here, too, the labour market is the regulator: whereas Australia mainly needs skilled craftsmen, Latin America needs scientists and technicians and their technical know-how.

The result of all this is that despite the increased desire to emigrate the number of those actually emigrating from this country has remained fairly constant at around 50,000 per annum.

Gerhard Storbeck says that "quality emigration has taken the place of the mass emigration of the past."

Anthony Richmond, a sociologist from the university of Toronto, predicted as long ago as 1969: "There will be world-wide mobility between major towns. This is part of an exchange process in which professional career goals and personal fulfillment goals are interconnected."

Claudia Oberascher

(Welt am Sonntag, 21 August 1977)

Hamburg firm sells islands in the sun

Friedrich Ritter died on a lonely Galapagos island in 1925 after eating a rotten leg of chicken. He had had all his teeth extracted beforehand because he was afraid of toothache.

Ritter was once praised as the German "Robinson Crusoe". The unhappy fate of this refugee from civilisation does not seem to have affected the booming "desert island" business.

The wish to own one's own beach as opposed to one's own four walls is as strong as ever among well-to-do citizens of this country. More and more of them are going along to consult the Hamburg firm of Vladi and Boehm, the only island estate agents in the world.

But now, for the first, time, a shadow has fallen over a number of island owners. A large number of Germans have settled in the Seychelle islands in the Indian ocean.

Recently there was a coup there and Albert Rene, a socialist, is now president. Rumours are now going about that he is going to nationalise privately-owned islands. And this news is enough to alarm many an island seeker.

Many island buyers could quite easily avoid at least the financial losses they might incur as a result of nationalisation: they could take up an insurance with Vladi and Boehm: "But strangely enough hardly anyone has done so up to now."

Farhad Vladi, 32, and Rene Boehm, 35, began selling islands a good four years ago, while they were still students. Today they have an imposing office on the Alster boulevard Ballindamm.

It all started quite by chance: they had to stop in the Seychelles for a while on the way to India by ship. While they were there an island was put up for sale: they sold it to the coffee-king Darboven and his friends under the name of "Cousine."

Farhad Vladi and Réne Boehm soon realised that a large number of well-oiled German citizens with romantic inclinations were in the grips of "island fever". Either they wanted to revel in the delights of solitude or to surround themselves with an empire: one's own island empire makes quite an impression.

And there is another argument: in times of economic uncertainty one can grow potatoes, raise goats, cultivate tomatoes and breathe in pollution-free air on an island. Who would not like to live like Jacqueline and Onassis on "Skorpios" or Heinrich Böll on "Achill Head" off the Irish coast?

"We have sold more than 100 islands in the last few years," says Boehm. The fee is eight per cent, which is the usual rate for house sales. The range is vast: there are 15,000 rocks of various shapes and sizes off the Norwegian coast alone, not to mention the thousands of South Sea islands.

Most of Vladi and Boehm's clients are members of this country's wealthy-high society: bankers, show business people, doctors and writers.

But oil sheiks have also been known to knock on the doors of their Ballindamm office. The largest island sold so far was 33 thousand million square metres in size, the smallest only 3,000 square metres.

The cheapest island was 23,000 marks, the most expensive was bought by a doctor at 4.5 million marks. Many of these islands simply cannot be sold — an islet, for example, that was completely covered in cacti. You could not even go across it in high wellington boots . . .

Thomas Vinsor

(Münchner Merkur, 16 August 1977)



A excerpt from an islands-for-sale prospectus (Photo: Boehm & Vladi)

SPORT

Schmeling, the man who fought his way to the top

"Your blood is not make-up," the late Fritz Kortner, actor and director, once remarked to Max Schmeling. "For you it is a matter of life or death." A boxer who goes down for the count may well be out for good.

"I just have to learn a thing or two about boxing," Kortner confided. "Will you teach me, Max?" Schmeling agreed to do so.

In those days ties between stars of the stage and the ring were closer than they are nowadays. Boxing has lost much of its one-time aura.

But not Max Schmeling, pre-war heavy-weight boxing champion of the world, whose memoirs have just been published by Ullstein.

Max remains a popular figure to this day, despite the decades that have elapsed since he retired from the ring. He retains the reputation of being an ordinary man — little different from millions of fans — who fought his way to the top.

He was born in Klein-Luckow, a country village, but went on to gain world renown and feel at his ease among the great and famous. He started his working-life as an errand boy and went on to become a world champion.

His rags-to-riches life story is exemplary in many respects (and was certainly felt to be so by his contemporaries) in that before the war, sporting prowess was virtually the only opportunity the working man had of making a name for himself.

And Max Schmeling can still be considered his country's most popular sporting hero.He is still streets ahead of soccer stars Fritz Walter or Franz Beckenbauer, for instance.

Max Schmeling, the son of a Hamburg seaman, joined the landed gentry only to lose everything during dthe war. When the war was over he had to start from scratch — and made a success of life yet again.

He has been happily married to film star Anny Ondra for over forty years without falling foul of the gossip columnists, and despite the political ups-and-downs of the thirties and forties can also count himself lucky to have spent a mere three months in gaol.

Max has never been particularly interested in politics and his 100 days in prison were characteristically unpolitical. He was building a house in Hamburg in the immediate post-war years and failed to apply for some permit or other, whereupon he suddenly found himself behind bars.

Politics may never have interested Max, but when he, Axel Springer and John Jahr applied for permission to publish a newspaper, again in post-war Hamburg, Max Schmeling's was the name about which the Allied press officers had misgivings.

Permission was eventually granted, but not until Schmeling had withdrawn from the bid. Springer and Jahr are household names as press magnates in this country;Max Schmeling too is a successful businessman, but in an entirely different line of business.

His career in publishing was presumably nipped in the bud because Schmeling the boxer was invited on more than one occasion to the Reich Chancellery, but the subjects he discussed with Nazi officials were usually innocuous.

Max realised well enough that the Nazis welcomed the opportunity of using his sporting prowess as shop window-dressing. In all fairness it must be conceded that he never allowed himself to be hauled on to the Nazi bandwaggon.

Even so, there were times when Schmeling was made to look somewhat of a muscle-bound simpleton, as he himself admits. Even his audience with the Pope was used by the Nazis for propaganda purposes.

Max Schmeling did his best to use what influence he had on Hitler and Goebbels to intercede on behalf of his Jewish friends. But politics is a dangerous game and Max fell into disfavour.

Goebbels professed no longer to understand the motives that lay behind Schmeling's behaviour. "You come to the Fuehrer, you come to me, yet you still associate with Jews all the time."

There were times when Schmeling, too, no longer understood what was going on, or so he says in his memoirs. On 19 August 1936 he made what can only be described as a comeback for a boxer in his mid-thirties, knocking out Joe Louis in the twelfth round to regain his world crown.

Back home he was hailed as a model of German manhood, yet when he raised his hand it was the boxer's clenched fist he brandished, not the outstretched arm of the Nazi salute.

On 22 june 1938 he returned to New York, where Louis was again the challenger. This time, to his utter bewilderment, he was derided as Schmeling the Nazi superman, whereas Joe Louis was suddenly a symbol of freedom and equality of peoples and races against the Nazi threat.

Louis sent Schmeling down for the count in the first round and the two men are good friends to this day.

Max Schmeling's memoirs are first and foremost a reconstruction of his boxing career, his good days and his bad days, his first world championship win in 1930, his tactics and way of life, his knockout blows and ring sense.

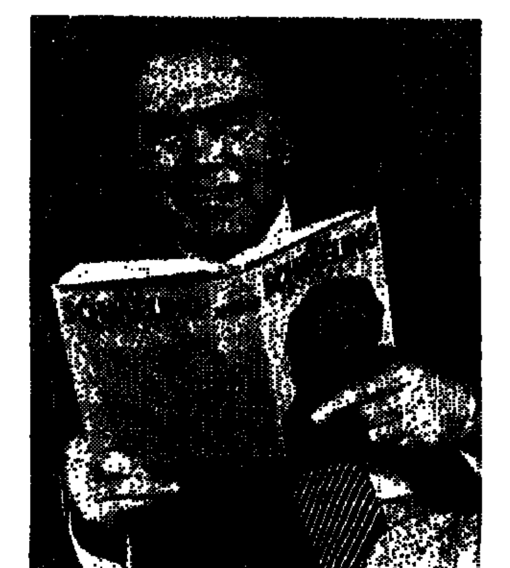
But the *Zeitgeist*, the spirit of the age, is by no means conspicuous by its absence. Schmeling the champion moved up in the world. He was painted by George Grosz and sculpted by Rudolf Belling.

Max nonetheless realised that, initially at least, he owed his popularity to his boxing and not to his personality. He resisted the tempation to try his luck as a film star or political hanger-on. Yet Schmeling the boxer remained in demand as a symbol of manhood.

When war was declared Max Schmeling became a paratrooper. He stood no chance of being excused active service even if he had so wanted, since he was on bad terns with *Sportfuehrer* Hans von Tschammer und Osten, the man who organised the Berlin Olympics.

He served in East Prussia and Greece and when the war was over, penniless and no chicken at age 42, he clambered back into the ring to earn the cash with which to start afresh.

With the proceeds, a purse of DM 40,000, he bought a few acres of land in Hollenstedt on the northern periphery of the Lüneburg Heath.



Max Schmeling

(Photo: Sven Simon)

He and his wife still live there, but Schmeling works in Hamburg, where an American boxing official fixed him up with a Coca Cola franchise. So all is well that ends well.

Yet Max Schmeling, it is as well to remember, is the scion of an age in which people believed in the noble art. A world champion boxer "Gentleman Jim" Corbett declared in tho German Press that a better boxer is a better man and citizen.

Such claims are, of course, nonsensical, but Max Schmeling would nonetheless seem to be the exception who proves the rule.

Manfred Lehnen

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 20 August 1977)

Swimmer Peter Nocke scoops up four more golds

Peter Nocke from Wuppertal is the most successful European championship swimmer of all time. At Jönköping, Sweden, he added four gold medals to the five he won in Vienna three years ago.

He only failed to sweep the board as he had done at Vienna bacause the highly fancied Soviet 4x200 metres relay team outcrawled this country into second place on the final day.

The Soviet quartet came home in 7 min. 28.21 sec., as against this country's 7 min. 33.28 sec. Still, it was yet another medal, silver this time, for Peter Nocke, who accounted for the lion's share of his team's medal haul.

At Jönköping this country did better than anticipated, winning seven gold, two silver and four bronze madals, faring even better than at Vienna, where the score had been six gold, three silver and three bronze.

This country's swimmers were at their best in the relay events, the men setting up a new European record for the 4x100 metres crawl in 3 min. 26.57 sec. In a time of 3 min. 48.73 sec. the team also defended its 4x100 metres medley title.

In the 4x200 metres crawl Frank Wennmann of Essen (1 min. 53.06 sec.), Klaus Steinbach of Saarbrücken (1 min. 51.89 sec.), Peter Knust of Wolfsburg (1 min. 54.21 sec.) and Peter Nocke (1 min. 54.12 sec.) failed to sweep the board, as already noted.

Both Nocke and Steinbach had swum in the 100 metres crawl finals a mere twenty minutes beforehand. Peter Nocke won his fourth gold medal convincingly in 51.55 seconds, but it was evidently not Steinbach's day.

Klaus Steinbach had swum the distance in a brilliant 51.51 seconds in his heat, but in the finals he was nervous and came a disappointing fourth behind

Peter Nocke (Photo: dpa)

Nocke, Vladimir Bure of the Soviet Union and Marcello Gourducci of Italy.

"I am far more delighted at winning all these medals than I was three years ago in Vienna," Nocke explained as he jumped for joy alongside team manager Rainer Wittmann. "In Vienna I didn't really know what it was all about."

But in the relay a few minutes later he was clearly exhausted, starting the final leg a good four metres behind Andrei Krylov, who came fourth at Montreal.

"I am done for. I all but drowned," he commented after the race. Oddly enough, Klaus Steinbach, who has put in little training this season, turned out to have more stamina.

After disappointing himself and other members of the team in his individual event he went on to swim his leg of the relay in a brilliant time of 1 min. 51.89 sec. But this valiant effort failed to affect the outcome.

Of the thirteen medals won at Jönköping a round dozen were won by the men, who the most successful team at the championships, nothing up more medals than even the Soviet Union.

The women just managed to scrape home with a solitary bronze medal in the last event but one, the 4x100 metres medley swum by Heike John of Weisweiler, Dagmar Rehak of Saarbrücken, Karin Seick of Winsen and Jutta Neeuw of Wuppertal.

Their time of 4 min. 19.05 sec. was a new national record and a slight consolation in view of the fact that by this stage the women had virtually been written off as far as medal prospects go.

The sensation at Jönköping as far as this country is concerned was unquestionably Gerald Mörken, the seventee-year-old Dortmund boy who was expected to do well in the breast stroke, but excelled himself in the 100 metres with a new world record time of 1 min. 2.86 sec.

The only other world record-breakers at Jönköping were the GDR girls Petra Thümer and Ulrike Tauber, with 4 min. 8.91 sec. in the 400 metres crawl and 2 min. 15.95 sec. in the 200 metres medley respectively.

All told, this country's team set up seven new European and eleven national records.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 22 August 1977)